

BRITAIN'S
GREATEST HERO!

JACK STAFF



IN FINAL BATTLE WITH

SGT. STATES

AMERICA'S FIGHTING
FOOT SOLDIER!



4
DEC

£1.80
\$2.95 US

JACK STAFF



One of the 'inspirations' behind this first Jack Staff storyline was an issue of Captain America (253, by Roger Stern and John Byrne, to give credit where it's due). This featured Captain America returning to Britain to do battle with Baron Blood, a vampire villain he had fought during World War 2, along with his fellow Invaders. During this issue he meets up with the original Union Jack (now confined to a wheel chair). The story ends with the hypnotised Captain America about to be bitten by Baron Blood ...

FLAG WAVING

What happens next?

Haven't got the faintest idea.

The following months Marvel Comics were never distributed in the UK, so I never got to know. I suspect the friendly old village doctor turns out to be Baron Blood in disguise and that *Joey cor, I never thought I'd be shakin' hands with Cap'n America* Chapman becomes the next Union Jack. Captain America probably never became a vampire.

I've said this elsewhere, so I may as well go public here. The original idea for Jack Staff came from a proposal for a mini series featuring the Marvel Character Union Jack (created by Roy Thomas and Frank Robbins). Actually, to call it a proposal makes it sound a little grander than it was. It was more that I was asking if they'd be interested in seeing a proposal. I never actually got as far as writing it!

They never got back to me.

But the more I thought about it the more the idea appealed to me, to the point where I thought why not just do it anyway? And so I did. It wasn't until I was a month away from publishing the first issue of Jack Staff that I found out that Marvel had actually published a Union Jack mini series early in 1999! Ah well.

Jack Staff is not Union Jack. This is not the story I would have written for Union Jack, that was just where I started.

What happens next?

Come back next issue and find out!

CREATED, WRITTEN BY
PAUL CRIST
AND DRAWN BY

YOU?!

YOU'VE
GOT A
NERVE
TO SHOW
YOUR FACE
HERE
CRANE!

WE HAD
THIS GUY
LOCKED
UP!
BANG TO
RIGHTS!

HE'S RIGHT.

NOT ABOUT WHO
DID THIS. IT WASN'T
JOHN SMITH.
I KNOW THAT.

BUT SMITH KNEW SOMETHING.

AND
YOU
LET HIM
GO! *

HE'S RIGHT.

I LET HIM GO.

POLICE POLICE POL

NOW,
THANKS
TO YOU,
SOME
ONE ELSE
HAS BEEN
KILLED
BY THIS
NUTTER!

KNOCK
KNOCK

AND I DON'T
KNOW WHY.

* FOR THE FULL STORY CHECK OUT JACK STAFF #2!

THIS
ONE'S
DOWN
TO YOU
CRANE!

BECKY BURDOCK.

REPORTER FOR THE
WORLD'S
PRESS.

AND NOW
SHE'S DEAD.

JUST LIKE HELEN.

AND I SHOULD HAVE DONE **SOMETHING**.

ICE

LOOK

I'M
SORRY
BUT I

YOU?!

NO!



BIP
BIP



POLICE?

OF COURSE
THIS IS AN
EMERGE-
-NCY!



SOME
ONE'S
TRYING
TO

sniff

KILL
ME...



SHE'S FROZEN.

CAUGHT.



HYPNOTISED.

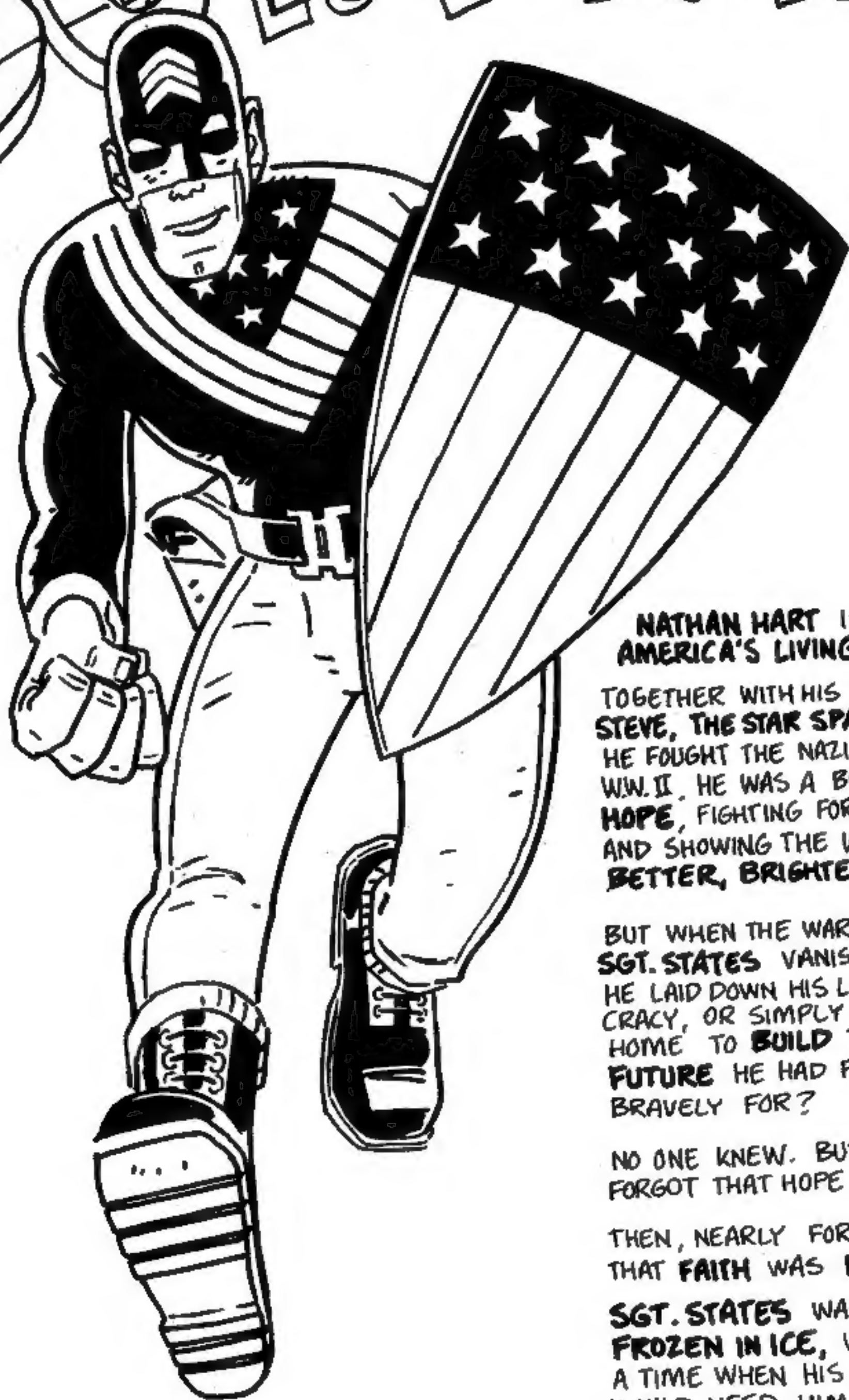
WE'VE
FOUND
THE STOLEN
**POLICE
CAR**
DETECTIVE
MAVERYK.

WHERE?

CASTLETOWN
CAVERNS
SIR.



HE'S AMERICA'S SGT. STATES



NATHAN HART IS ONE OF AMERICA'S LIVING LEGENDS!

TOGETHER WITH HIS YOUNG PAL, STEVE, THE STAR SPANGLED KID, HE FOUGHT THE NAZI MENACE DURING W.W.II. HE WAS A BEACON OF HOPE, FIGHTING FOR FREEDOM, AND SHOWING THE WAY TO A BETTER, BRIGHTER FUTURE!

BUT WHEN THE WAR WAS OVER, SGT. STATES VANISHED! HAD HE LAID DOWN HIS LIFE FOR DEMOCRACY, OR SIMPLY RETURNED HOME TO BUILD THAT BETTER FUTURE HE HAD FOUGHT SO BRAVELY FOR?

NO ONE KNEW. BUT NO ONE FORGOT THAT HOPE, THAT IDEAL.

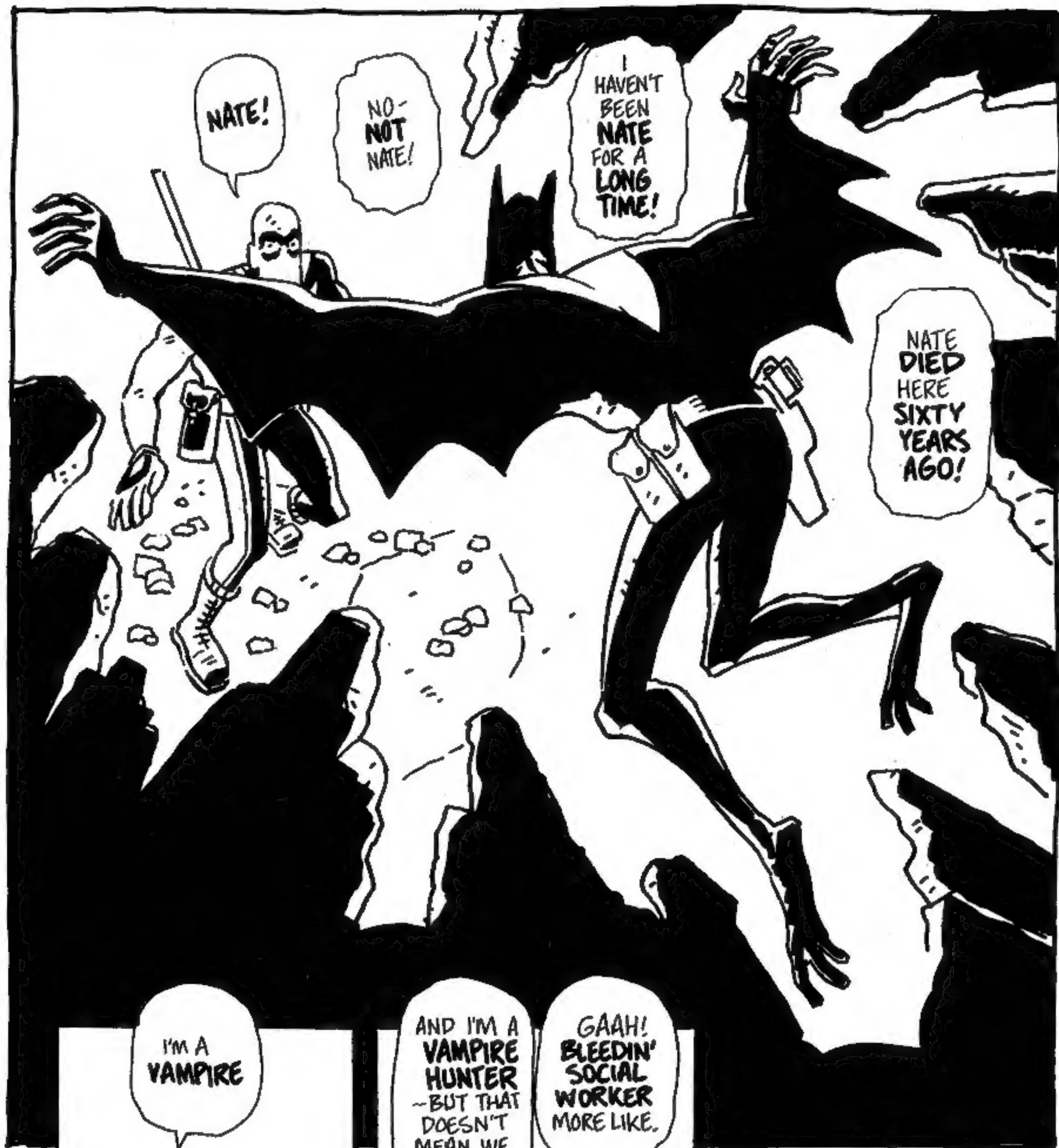
THEN, NEARLY FORTY YEARS ON, THAT FAITH WAS REWARDED.

SGT. STATES WAS FOUND FROZEN IN ICE, WAITING FOR A TIME WHEN HIS COUNTRY WOULD NEED HIM AGAIN!

HE STILL FIGHTS FOR AMERICA,
THE HOPE. THE DREAM.
THE TRUTH.



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"BECKY"

"BECKY
BURDOCK"



BUT I
CAN HURT
YOU JACK!
IN SO MANY
WAYS!



WHY
D'YOU
THINK I
CHOSE
THAT
REPORTER
OF YOURS?

REPORTER?
YOU
MEAN
BECKY?

THAT'S
RIGHT,
BECKY
BURDOCK.

BUT--
I HARDLY
KNEW
HER--

AND
YOU
KILLED
HER

YOU
DON'T
GET IT,
DO YOU
JACK?

I DIDN'T
KILL
BECKY
BURDOCK!

BUT
NOT BECKY.
I GAVE
HER THE
GIFT OF
ETERNAL
DAMN-
ATION!

AND
REMEMBER
--- IT
WAS
YOUR
FAULT!

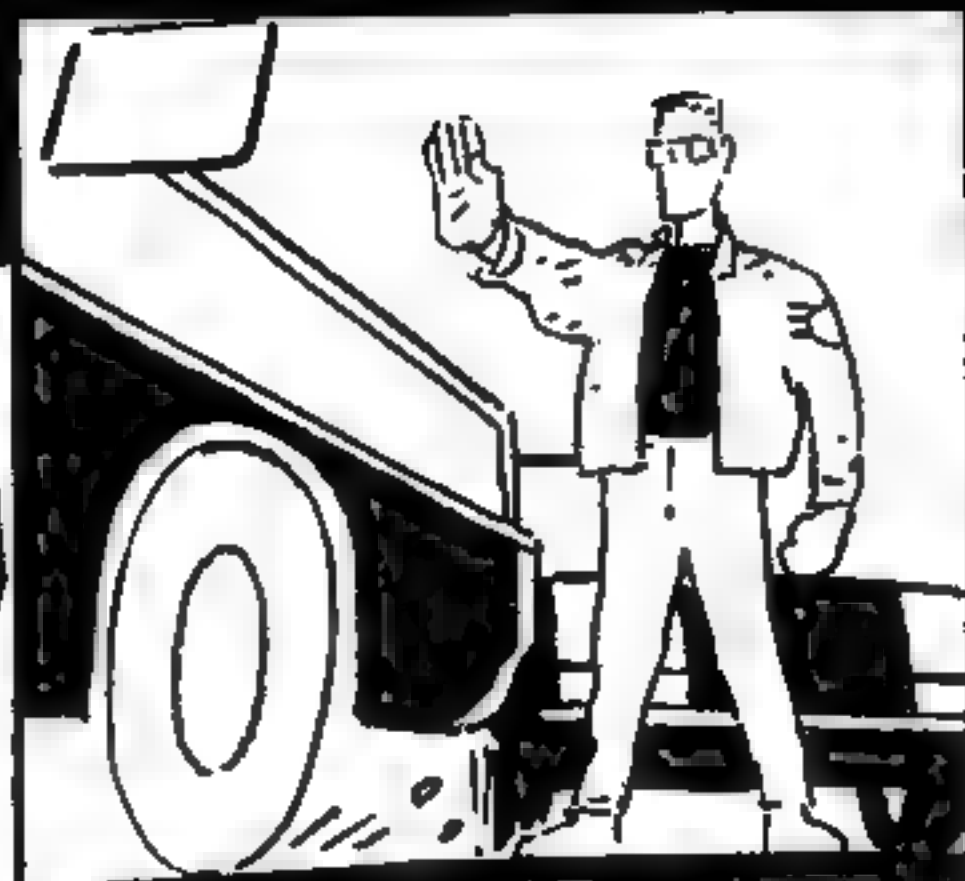
NO!
BECKY!

YOUR
WOMAN!

BECAUSE
YOU THOUGHT
SHE WAS
'MY WOMAN'?

NO-- THE
WOMEN I
KILLED,
I BROKE
THEIR
NECKS!

WHEE OOO WHEE



SKREEETCH

**BEEP
BEEP**

**POLICE!
GET OFF
THE ROAD!**

COLONEL
'THUNDER'
STORM.

U.S.
AGENT.

I'M
AFRAID
THE CAVERN
IS
CLOSED.

**US
AGENT**

YOU'LL
NEVER GET
AWAY WITH
THIS! WHEN
THE AUTHORITIES
FIND OUT WHAT
YOU'VE DONE,
THEY'LL HUNT
YOU DOWN!

THERE'S
SO MANY
WAYS THE
AUTHORITIES
CAN USE A
PATRIOTIC
LITTLE
VAMPIRE!

SOME
TIMES
YOU JUST
GET A
HANKERING
FOR SOME
THING A
LITTLE
FRESHER!

SO WHEN
THE **BLOOD**
LUST COMES
THEY JUST
SEND ME OFF
TO THE
LATEST
WAR ZONE!

I SLIPPED
MY **BABY**
SITTERS
AND DECIDED
TO REVISIT
THE LAND
OF MY
'BIRTH'

IMAGINE
MY JOY
WHEN I
HEARD
YOU WERE
BACK
TOO!

NEVER?!

I'VE BEEN
GETTING
AWAY WITH
IT FOR
SIXTY
YEARS!

WHY
D'YOU THINK
THERE WERE
SO MANY
STAR
SPANGLED
KIDS?

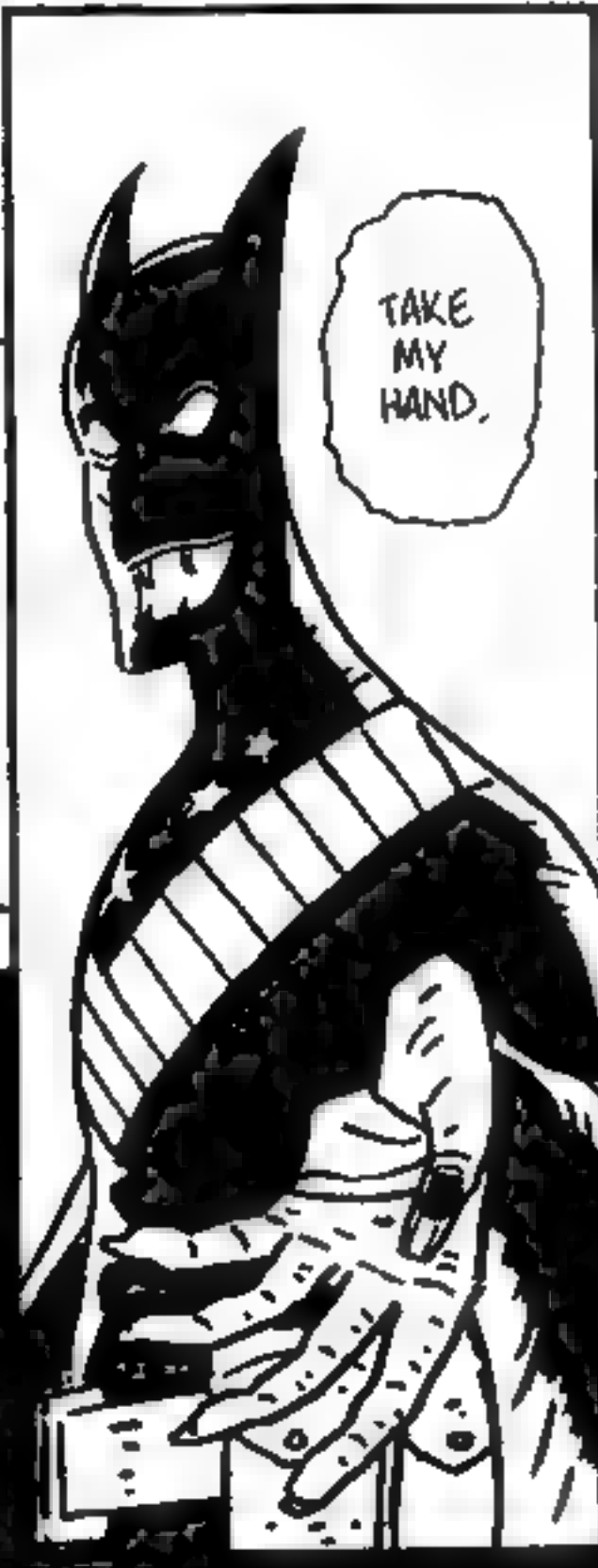
THAT'S
WHY THEY'RE
PREPARED
TO INDULGE
MY LITTLE
NEEDS.

BUT
BLOOD
BANKS'LL
ONLY GO
SO FAR
...

C'MON
JACK--
KEEP UP.
YOU CAN
DO IT--

NO,
I DON'T
SUPPOSE
YOU
CAN.







THERE'S NO NEED TO STRUGGLE
GIRL -- THE CHANGE IN YOU HAS
BEGUN -- DON'T FIGHT IT --
-- FEEL IT INSIDE YOU --





GAAH!

FASTER THAN A
SPEEDING BULLET

DON'T TRY
USING
YOUR
LITTLE
MIST
TRICK
TO GET
AWAY

I'VE
EXTENDED
MY ELECTRO
MAGNETIC
FORCE
FIELD
AROUND
YOU
...

YOU'RE
NOT
GOING
ANY
WHERE

AH--
BUT WHO
SAYS I
WANT
TO GO
ANY
WHERE?

I'M
TRAPPED
IN YOUR
FORCE
FIELD
...

AND
SO ARE
YOU!

LET'S
SEE WHAT
YOU'RE
REALLY
MADE OF
'METAL
MAN!'

NO!

++ VAMPIRE WEAKNESSES ++

+ STAKES +

+ GARLIC +

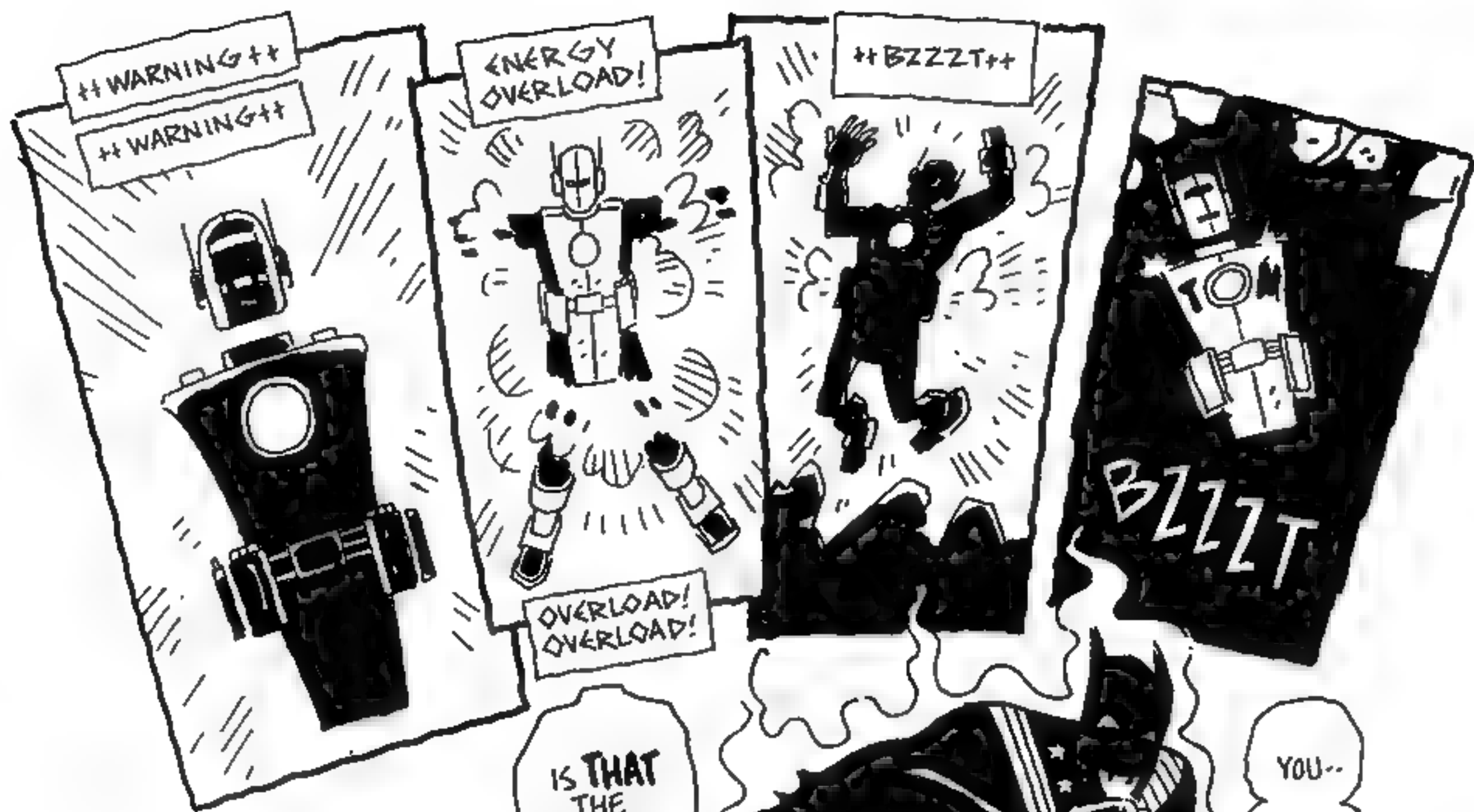
+ SUNLIGHT +

SUNLIGHT? GOTCHA!

SOLAR POWER DIS-
CHARGE + MAX!

+ INITIATE +

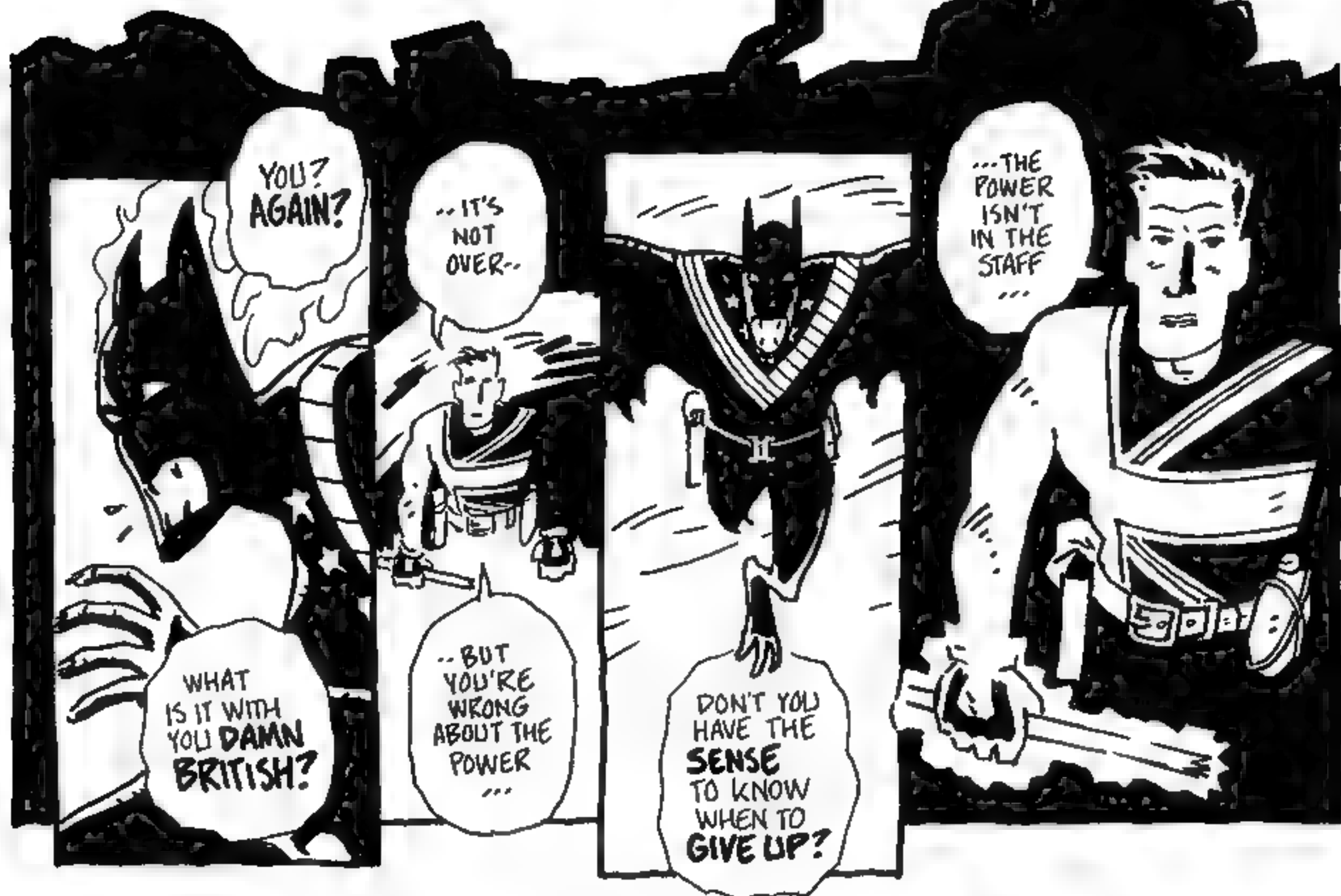




IS THAT
THE
BEST
YOU CAN
DO?



YOU--
--YOU
WERE
RIGHT
NATE



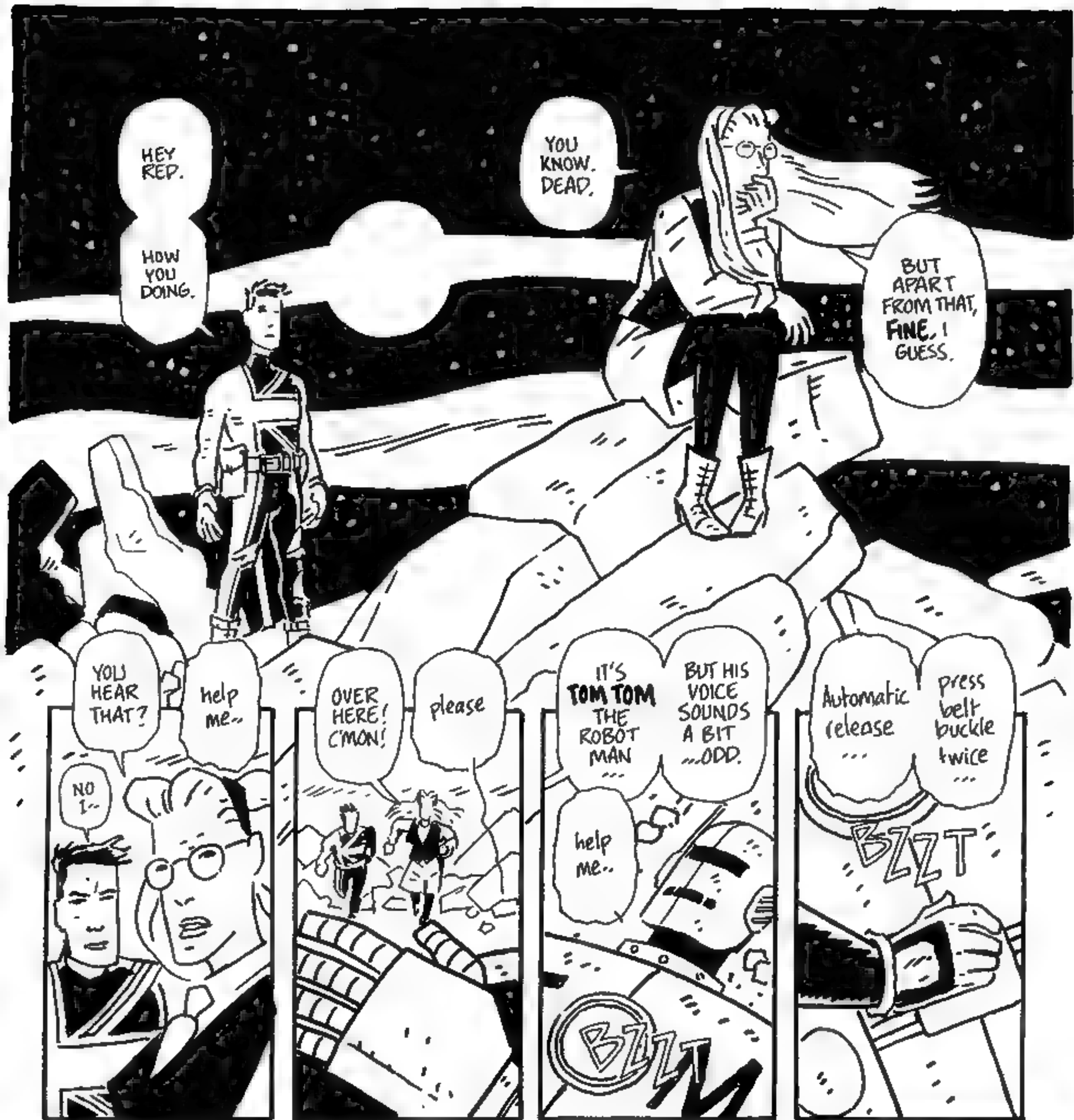
WHAT
IS IT WITH
YOU **DAMN**
BRITISH?

--BUT
YOU'RE
WRONG
ABOUT THE
POWER

DON'T YOU
HAVE THE
SENSE
TO KNOW
WHEN TO
GIVE UP?

---THE
POWER
ISN'T
IN THE
STAFF

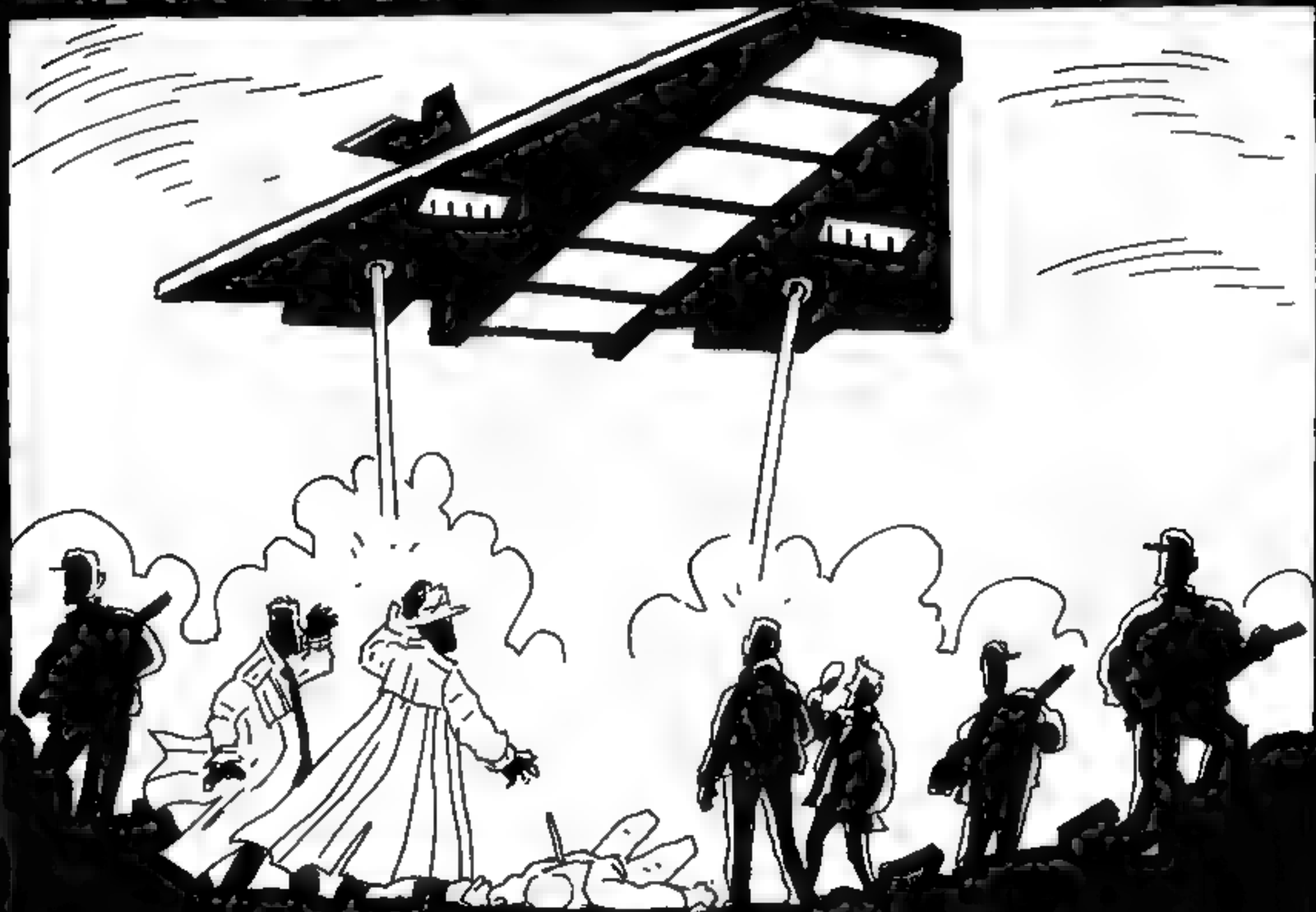


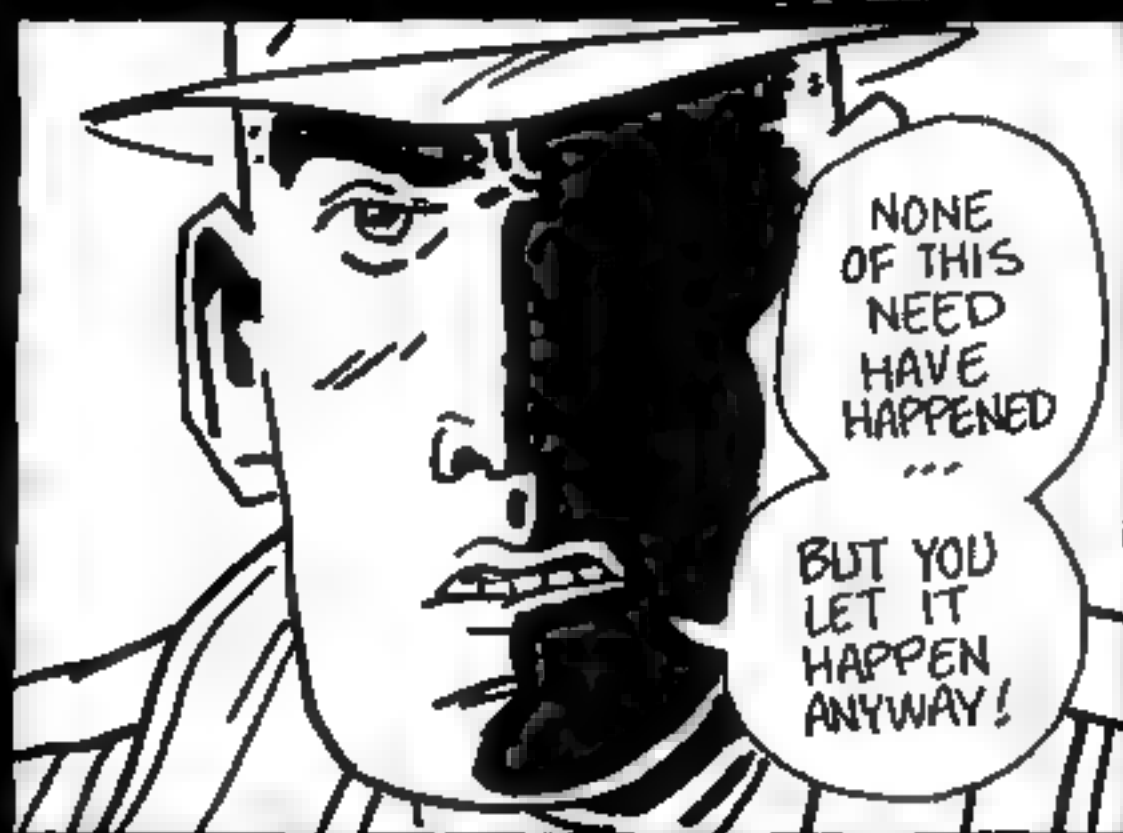




YOU'RE
NICKED!







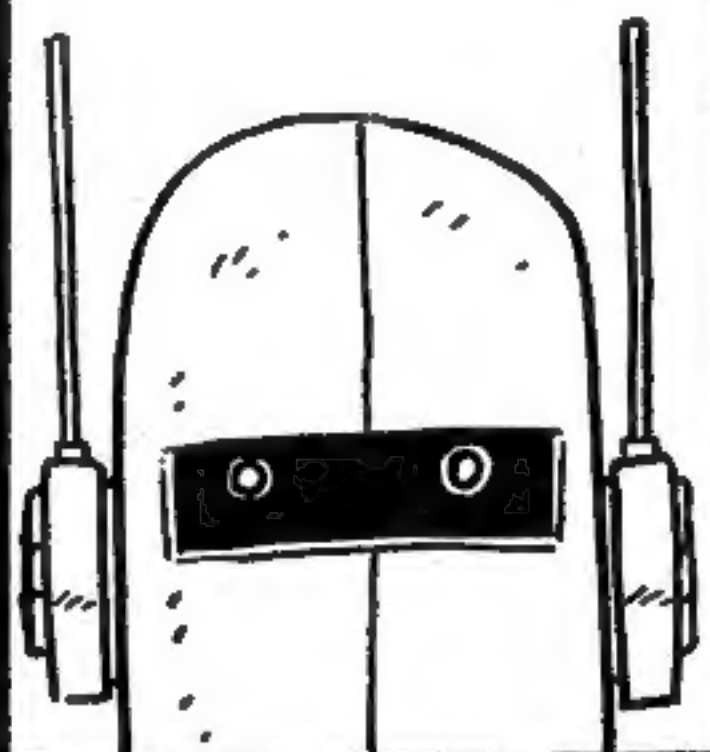
DETECTIVE INSPECTOR MAVERYK

had to let JACK STAFF go when he realised he'd have a hard time charging Jack with the murder of BECKY BURDOCK - girl reporter - when I was still around to give evidence on behalf of the defence.



TOM TOM THE ROBOT MAN

hasn't been seen since we checked her into the hospital with sunburn. Her parents probably GROUNDED her.



Me I'm still working for THE WORLD'S PRESS (even though my death made FRONT PAGE news)

I've got a new title too.
BECKY BURDOCK
Vampire Reporter.

Apparantly BAT GIRL was already taken.



And as for

JACK STAFF



The story's not over yet.

THE POLICE INVESTIGATION INTO THE
CASTLETOWN VAMPIRE KILLINGS
HAS BEEN SCALED DOWN FOLLOWING
THE DISCOVERY OF A BODY IN THE
UNDERGROUND CAVERNS.

POLICE SAY THEY ARE NOT LOOKING
FOR ANY OTHER SUSPECTS IN THIS CASE.

"AND FINALLY"

HERE'S A GOOD THOUGHT TO END ON.
AMERICA'S FIGHTING FOOTSOLDIER

SGT. STATES

FLEW OUT OF HEATHROW TONIGHT AT
THE END OF HIS EUROPEAN **'TOUR OF
DUTY'**. DURING THE LAST TWO MONTHS
THE WORLD WAR TWO VETERAN
VISITED MORE RECENT **AREAS OF
CONFLICT**, HELPING TO ESTABLISH
AID PROJECTS TO HELP THOSE CAUGHT
UP IN THE FIGHTING.

HIS LAST FEW DAYS WERE SPENT IN
BRITAIN, REVISITING OLD FRIENDS
FROM HIS **WARTIME VISITS** NEARLY
SIXTY YEARS AGO.

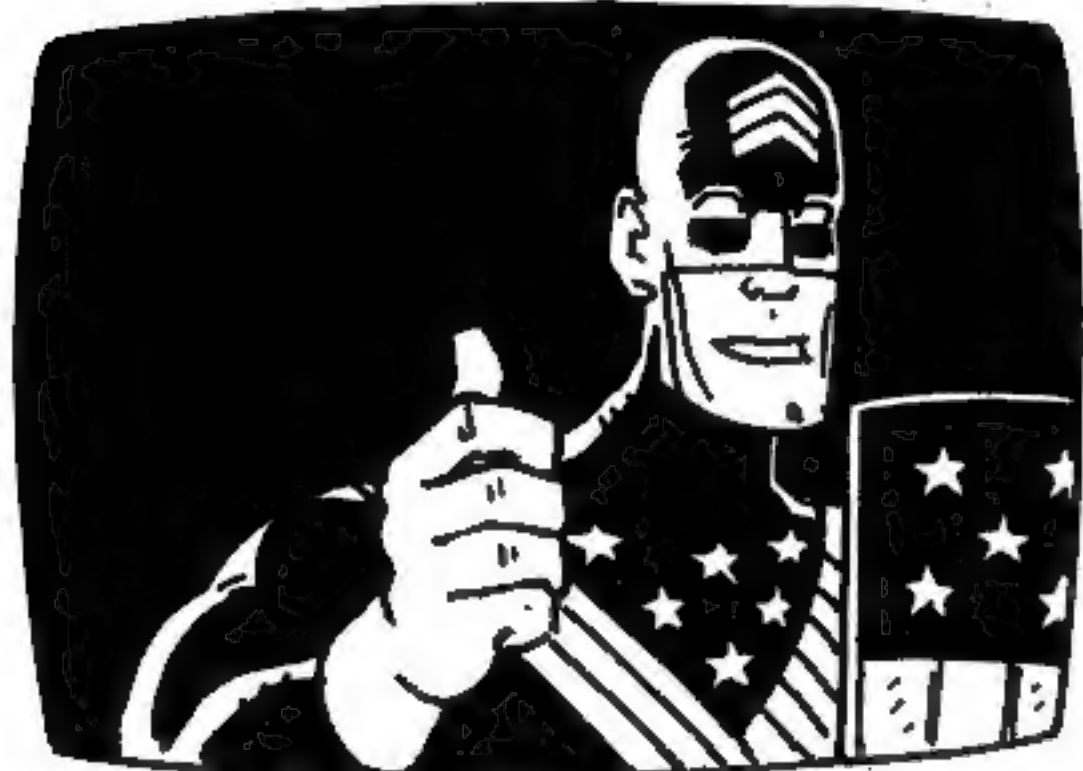
OUR REPORTER CAUGHT UP WITH THE
LEGENDARY HERO MOMENTS BEFORE
HE BOARDED THE PLANE.

ANY
PARTING
THOUGHTS
FOR OUR
VIEWERS
SERGEANT?

SURE - GIVE MORE
BLOOD YOU GUYS!

THE NEXT LIFE
YOU SAVE COULD
BE YOUR OWN.

SEE Y'ALL AGAIN
REAL SOON!



THAT'S THE NEWS AT TEN THIRTY.
GOODNIGHT.

NEXT MONTH

KANE 29

It's Day One as Detective Kane joins the 39th Precinct. Together with his partner Dennis Harvey they investigate the murder of Michelle Hawkins, an investigation which leads right to the door of Oscar Darke.

Oh - and there's a Frank Miller pin-up page too.

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